



REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

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PREVIOUS ISSUES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.rio.iowa.gov/news/legislative_weekly/index.html

RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

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NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

On February 5, FEMA in coordination with the interagency Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group issued a draft of the *National Disaster Recovery Framework*. This report includes recommendations designed to enhance the nation's ability to recovery from disasters.

FEMA incorporated many ideas and recommendations submitted by agencies and organizations active in Iowa's disaster recovery. In fact, Iowa is seen as a model for effective disaster recovery at the state-level and many of the activities of the RIO are identified as best practices.

The framework also emphasizes the importance of pre-disaster community and regional planning. By using good planning, communities are able to mitigate some effects of a disaster and are in a position to recover more quickly.

The report is available to review at <http://disasterrecoveryworkinggroup.gov>. A nationwide comment period will run through Feb. 26. Individuals and other stakeholders who wish to submit comments can do so at www.regulations.gov using the docket identification



At events such as this one in Cedar Rapids in 2009, Iowa sought recommendations from local, state and federal groups active in the state's 2008 disaster recovery effort.

number FEMA-2010-0004.

The *National Disaster Recovery Framework* is designed to help the broad emergency management community work better together to support individuals, households and communities as they rebuild and restore their ways of life following a disaster.

The *Recovery Framework* was initially developed based on nationwide input from all levels of government, the private sector, academic and emergency management communities, voluntary and non-profit organizations,

and a wide array of associations and organizations.

The Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group—comprised of more than 20 federal departments, agencies and offices—will use the report to provide President Obama with recommendations on ways to improve the capabilities of individuals, communities and the nation's economy to withstand and rapidly recover from disasters.

For more information about the *Recovery Framework*, visit <http://www.fema.gov/recoveryframework>.

WILL 2010 BE ANOTHER 2008?

The National Weather Service in Des Moines held a Webinar on Monday to discuss the flood outlook for 2010 and how it could potentially compare to the floods of 2008. A copy of the presentation can be accessed at: <http://www.training-source.org/slides.pdf>. Below are some of the main points from the webinar:

According to the National Weather Service, there is a continued high risk of significant flooding in many areas across the state. The risk has increased since the first outlook on January 29. The risk is highest in the Des Moines, Raccoon, Iowa and Cedar River basins, and especially across the northwest half of the Des Moines service area.

There is also an above normal risk of flooding from ice jams. Any ice jams which do occur may result in locally higher river stages.

The time period when flooding is most likely to occur extends from mid-March into mid-April. Flooding may occur earlier or later than this time period depending on weather activity and trends.

The higher than normal risk

of flooding is not confined just to areas with an above normal snow pack. High soil moisture is also contributing to a higher than normal risk of flooding in areas that have little to no snow cover.

Flooding potential will continue to be determined by the occurrence and timing of weather events, such as rapid warm-ups and heavy precipitation. Thus, it is more important than normal to closely monitor the potential for these and related weather events. They may further increase the risk of flooding, beyond what the current outlook indicates.

To see the flood outlook for your area, visit www.weather.gov/desmoines.

HOW DOES 2010 COMPARE TO THE FLOODS OF 2008?

Comparing the 2008 floods to the conditions Iowa has now is like comparing apples to oranges. In 2008, the state had a large amount of snow combined with massive rainfall for several days during the

spring. Right now, Iowa actually has more snow pack than what the state had in 2008, however several factors will decide what occurs this spring. If Iowa has ideal snow melt conditions and lower than normal rainfalls, then flooding will not be as severe as expected. However, if Iowa experiences a rapid warm-up, along with higher than normal rainfall, the risk for flooding across the state will increase.

—Courtesy of Jeff Zogg,
Senior Hydrologist/NWS
Des Moines, IA

QUICK FACT:

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood-related losses. Homeowners insurance covers damages caused by tornadoes, but not floods.

To cover flood-related losses, flood insurance must typically be purchased. This is in addition to homeowners insurance. Homeowners can insure their residential structures up to \$250,000. Contents coverage is available up to \$100,000.



AARON EILERTS DAY OF SERVICE

The spirit of commitment to community service and volunteerism exemplified by the late Aaron Eilerts of Eagle Grove is carried forward again this year as the state marks Aaron Eilerts Day of Service on Wednesday.

Gov. Chet Culver declared the first Aaron Eilerts Day on Feb. 24, 2009, in memory of the young man who was killed when a tornado struck

the Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch in June of 2008, taking the lives of seven scouts. February 24 was his birthday, and the young man would have been 16 years old this year.

With the designation of the day in 2009, Gov. Culver called on schools across the state to follow Aaron's example by giving back to their communities and their state. Again this year,

hundreds of students from across Iowa will be volunteering hours of service, from sewing blankets for the sick, to cleaning out fire hydrants and washing car windows.

A ceremony was held in his honor on Wednesday at the Eagle Grove Middle School in Eagle Grove, where Aaron attended as a student.

